

Application No.: 09/745,157  
Amendment dated: October 5, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2005  
Attorney Docket No.: 1006.01-US

d.) Remarks

Claims 1-6 and 8-29, 31, and 32 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 21, 22, 26, and 31 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove. Claim 30 as been cancelled.

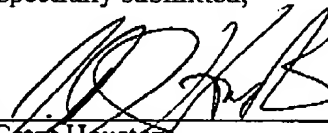
The issue relative to claim 26 has been addressed. Applicant thanks examiner for the suggestion and the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 15, 16 26-28, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vanoli *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,943,147). Claims 6 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanoli *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,943,147) in view of Bach *et al.* (US Patent No. 6,606,354). Claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanoli *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,943,147) in view of Yao (US Patent No. 6,687,423). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanoli *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,943,147) in view of Yao (US Patent No. 6,687,423) and further in view of Delavaux *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,646,762).

The pending prior art rejections are avoided by the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of claim 30 into the independent claims.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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